

Territory-wide flag day today

Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited has been issued a Public Subscription Permit to hold a territory-wide flag sale from 7am to 12.30pm today (May 26), a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said.

For enquiries, please call the SWD's hotline at 2343 2255, or the Charitable Fund-raising Control Team at 2832 4311 during office hours. Information on the flag days of the month is available at the SWD's website (www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_whatsnew/). Permits for flag days containing contact information of the flag-selling organisations and information on the approved flag-selling activities have also been uploaded to the SWD's website (www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_controlofc/sub_recentlyap/). For enquiries about the detailed flag-selling arrangements, please contact the individual flag-selling organisations.

Details of the charitable fund-raising activities covered by the Public Subscription Permit issued by the SWD have also been uploaded to the GovHK website (www.gov.hk/fundraising).

In the case of suspected fraudulent flag day activities, people should not make any donation and should immediately report the matter to the Police, the spokesman added.

Speech by CE at Tai Kwun Opening Ceremony (English only)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at Tai Kwun Opening Ceremony today (May 25):

Simon (Chairman of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), Dr Simon Ip), Bernard (Chairman of the Jockey Club Central Police Station Advisory Committee, Mr Bernard Chan), Dr Shan (Director of the Palace Museum, Dr Shan Jixiang), Mr Song (Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR, Mr Song Ru'an), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. Tonight's occasion is a much awaited appointment on my calendar. Indeed, the opening of the Central Police Station Compound – now named "Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts" is much anticipated by many people in Hong Kong.

Almost a year into my tenure as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, I have to say that apart from hard work, there have been moments of frustrations. But all these are worth it because of the exclusive honour and privilege given to the Chief Executive to officiate at the formal opening of several heritage projects, which are so close to my heart. They include the Viva Blue House, The Murray and now Tai Kwun.

Standing here tonight, I am overwhelmed with joy, relief and pride. The conservation of the Central Police Station Compound was conceived and presented as a gift from the Hong Kong Jockey Club to the people of Hong Kong in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. After more than a decade of dedication, patience and perseverance on the part of the Club and the many experts and workers involved, the people can now rejoice at the grandeur of the gift they have received. The project has brought the Central Police Station Compound, which has long been a critical piece of our heritage, to revitalised and re-imagined life. The effect is much better than one could have imagined. This gift is certainly worth the wait.

As the advocate for many of Hong Kong's heritage conservation projects in my then capacity as Secretary for Development, there is always a personal attachment and obligation on my part that makes me worried about the satisfactory completion of each and every of these projects. Tai Kwun is a particularly sensitive project given the scale, its location, public expectations, the cost, the compatibility of the two additional structures with the old buildings, etc. It is therefore for me a big relief to see all these factors being taken care of so well, thanks to the work of design architect Herzog & de Meuron, represented by Ascan Mergenthaler here, the conservation expert Michael Morrison, the executive architect Rocco Yim, the Project Director Mike Moir and most importantly, the generosity of the Hong Kong Jockey Club in committing to a heftier investment of \$3.8 billion, well exceeding the original \$1.8 billion when I announced this project in October 2007. I hope nobody will label this as a cost overrun!

From today onwards, Tai Kwun will become a much valued cultural precinct in Hong Kong, a hang-out area for the young and the artistic, a place for people of all ages to be reminded of Hong Kong's past, and a "must-see" for tourists. It will be a shining example of Hong Kong's heritage conservation work and a landmark of "Conserving Central" – a major initiative announced in 2009 aiming at taking Central, Hong Kong's century-old CBD to even grander and newer heights. Our descendants will be proud of the legacy we have left.

While this good evening is a culmination in a decade of determined efforts by the Jockey Club, what should not go unnoticed is the value that the Club has attached to public engagement throughout the process. The Club has fully embraced the views expressed by the public and the neighbours in revising the design of the two newly added structures, in preserving as well F Hall which is actually not a graded historic building, in enhancing connectivity through a very functional and interesting elevated walkway, in actively working with the arts and cultural sector on the software of the project.

I have worked with four successive chairmen of the Hong Kong Jockey Club in this project over the past decade and let me thank them one by one. To Ron, who is both a mentor and a great friend, I thank him for his vision and courage in taking on this mega project which I am sure he knew at the time that it would be costly, time-consuming and complicated. To John, in his former incarnation as an Administrative Officer like myself, I thank him for his wise counsel and humility in responding to public views and knocking down Herzog & de Meuron's design from 200 metres to 80 metres. To Brian, a distinguished accountant, for his professional prudence in managing the project and only mildly complaining about the escalated cost and to Simon, for his calmness and stature in regaining public trust after the partial collapse of Block 4 in 2016 and in overseeing the most difficult part of commissioning this grand project. Finally, it would be remiss of me not to express my deepest admiration and thanks to Winfried, the Club's CEO, who has been an anchoring force throughout a protracted journey.

On behalf of the people of Hong Kong, my most sincere gratitude to the Hong Kong Jockey Club for its vision in bringing Tai Kwun to magnificent life. I am sure every visitor will enjoy this place as much as I do.

I wish you all a very enjoyable evening.

Thank you very much.

Heightened vigilance urged amid increasing activity of hand, foot and mouth disease and enterovirus 71 infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (May 25) urged the public to maintain strict personal and environmental hygiene as the local activity of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) and enterovirus (EV) 71 infection has been increasing in the past two weeks.

According to the CHP's surveillance data, the number of institutional HFMD outbreaks recorded increased from five (affecting 23 persons) to 14 (affecting 60 persons) from the week of May 6 to that of May 13. As of yesterday (May 24), 15 outbreaks involving 59 persons had been reported this week. In the last four weeks, most outbreaks occurred in kindergartens and child care centres as well as primary schools.

As for EV71 infection, while only one case of infection was recorded per

month in February and March this year, the number of cases increased to seven in May. As of yesterday, nine cases had been recorded this year.

"HFMD occurs throughout the year. Apart from a summer peak from May to July, a smaller peak may also occur from October to December. As young children are more susceptible, parents should stay alert to their health. Institutional outbreaks may occur where HFMD can easily spread among young children with close contact," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"We have issued letters to doctors, child care centres, kindergartens and primary and secondary schools to alert them to the latest situation. Schools are reminded to follow the [Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases](#) on preventive and control measures as well as management of outbreaks, which should be reported to the CHP for prompt follow-up," the spokesman added.

Management of venues with play facilities should pay special attention to the CHP's [Public Health Advice for Play Facilities](#) on appropriate infection control in activities involving young children under 6 during the peak season.

"We noted that HFMD activity in neighbouring areas such as Guangdong and Taiwan has also increased recently. Parents travelling with their children in the coming holidays or summer vacation should pay special attention to personal and environmental hygiene while attending play facilities or having close contact with other children," the spokesman added.

To prevent HFMD, members of the public, and especially the management of institutions, should take heed of the following preventive measures:

- Maintain good air circulation;
- Wash hands before meals and after going to the toilet or handling diapers or other stool-soiled materials;
- Keep hands clean and wash hands properly, especially when they are dirtied by respiratory secretions, such as after sneezing;
- Cover the nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and oral discharges properly;
- Clean children's toys and other objects thoroughly and frequently with diluted household bleach (by adding one part of household bleach containing 5.25 per cent sodium hypochlorite to 99 parts of water), followed by rinsing or wiping with clean water;
- Children who are ill should be kept out of school until their fever and rash have subsided and all the vesicles have dried and crusted;
- Avoid going to overcrowded places; and
- Parents should maintain close communication with schools to let them know the latest situation of the sick children.

The CHP's weekly report, EV SCAN (www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/21639.html), is issued every Friday to report the latest local situation of HFMD. The public may also visit the CHP's page on [HFMD and EV71 infection](#) for more information.

LegCo Members meet with members of Tsuen Wan District Council (with photos)

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) held a meeting today (May 25) with members of the Tsuen Wan District Council (DC) at the LegCo Complex to discuss and exchange views on matters of mutual interest.

During the meeting, LegCo Members discussed and exchanged views with DC members on launching a study on the construction of Tuen Mun-Tsuen Wan-Shatin Monorail; reprovisioning the Rambler Channel Public Cargo Working Area; cancellation and freezing of bank accounts by banks; strengthening law enforcement against illegal road racing along Castle Peak Road; tackling the occupation of the metered parking spaces for business purpose; shortening the waiting time for specialist out-patient services at public hospitals; as well as improving bus services in Tsing Lung Tau.

The meeting was convened by Mr Frankie Yick and attended by Mr Tommy Cheung, Ms Starry Lee, Mrs Regina Ip, Mr Michael Tien, Mr Yiu Si-wing, Mr Leung Che-cheung, Ms Alice Mak, Dr Lo Wai-kwok, Mr Chu Hoi-dick, Dr Junius Ho, Mr Holden Chow, Mr Shiu Ka-chun, Mr Luk Chung-hung, Mr Lau Kwok-fan, Dr Cheng Chung-tai and Mr Tony Tse.





Chairman of LegCo Security Panel reviews Fire Services passing-out parade (with photos)

The Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Security, Mr Chan Hak-kan, reviewed the 182nd Fire Services passing-out parade for 25 station officers, 21 ambulance officers, 10 senior firemen of the Mobilising and Communications Group, 62 firemen and 46 ambulancemen at the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy today (May 25).

Speaking at the parade, Mr Chan commended the Fire Services Department (FSD) as an outstanding disciplined force, which has been striving to safeguard the city. He said, "Over one and a half centuries, the FSD has been dedicated to its duties to safeguard Hong Kong, and protect life and property from fire and other calamities. With exceptional bravery and an unwavering spirit, the FSD personnel have been saving those in distress, regardless of danger or difficulty. Their selfless contributions and commitment, from generation to generation, have led a brigade of some 100 personnel to become today's elite force with international acclaim."

He encouraged the graduates to uphold the fine tradition of the FSD and fulfil its mission of "Serving with courage, passion and commitment". To tie in with the development of the FSD, the graduates also should pursue self-enhancement and enrich their professional knowledge as well as operational experience, with the aim of providing the community with top-notch fire and ambulance services, he added.

Mr Chan noted that in response to society's development, the FSD has established a number of specialist teams to enhance rescue capabilities and operational safety of front-line personnel. The well-equipped facilities and comprehensive training programmes of the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy also enable the department to nurture more outstanding fire and ambulance personnel to serve the community.

The parade was followed by a demonstration of firefighting and rescue techniques by the graduates. The 164 graduates will be posted to the Fire Services Communications Centre as well as various fire stations and ambulance depots.

